

ER 60-5177

1 July 1961

MEMORANDUM FOR: Acting Director of Central Intelligence

VIA: Deputy Director (Plans)

SUBJECT: Clandestine Delivery of Arms to Opposition Leadership
in the Dominican Republic.

1. This memorandum recommends action by the Acting Director of Central Intelligence. Such recommendation is contained in para 5.

2. While Ambassador Farland was in the Dominican Republic, a principal leader of the opposition requested that a limited number of arms be made available which could be used to precipitate the overthrow of the regime of General Rafael Leonidas Trujillo. These arms presumably would be used against key members of the Trujillo regime.

Within recent months, the Trujillo regime has become increasingly unstable due to growing opposition within the professional and middle classes to the excesses of the dictatorship. Political oppression of these groups has brought about severely strained relations between the Catholic Church and the Trujillo regime. Most knowledgeable sources have been predicting that the fall of the regime is imminent.

Since the fall of the Trujillo regime appears inevitable, in the interest of the U.S. that our relations with the opposition be as close as possible. Providing the arms as requested would contribute significantly toward this end.

3. It is proposed to procure and deliver to underground opposition forces in the Dominican Republic twelve (12) surplus U.S. rifles, Model 1903 (Springfield), with telescopic sights, together with five hundred (500) rounds of ammunition for same.

4. Approval for delivery of these arms has been given by Assistant Secretary of State Roy Wilkins, who requests that the arms be placed in the hands of the opposition at the earliest possible moment.

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5. It is recommended that the opposition in the Dominican Republic be provided the arms as requested.

SIGNED

Chief
Western Hemisphere Division

cc: 1502

CONCUR:

Deputy Director
(Plans)

Date

The recommendation contained in
paragraph 5 is approved:

SIGNED

Director of Central Intelligence

Date 2 JUL 1960

DDP/WH

sklb (1 July 60)

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